

121-123 Mill Street (Duplex)
121-123 Mill Street
Lock Haven
Clinton County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5536

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

121-123 MILL STREET (Duplex)

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Location: 121-123 Mill Street, Lock Haven, Clinton County, Pennsylvania

USGS Lock Haven Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.294590.4556910

Significance: The building at 121-123 Mill Street is included in a locally significant historic neighborhood which contains architecturally impressive nineteenth-century residential structures with ties to Lock Haven's lumber industry. The Mill Street residential structures, including 121-123 Mill Street, are significant in another context. They are significant as a collection of early-twentieth-century vernacular multi-family housing. Located close to Lock Haven's commercial district, Mill Street provided working class housing for support personnel of local businesses, salesmen, and industrial laborers.

The building at 121-123 Mill Street contributes to the character of its historic neighborhood as an example of an early-twentieth-century multi-family residential building. As with many of the surrounding Mill Street residences, 121-123 Mill Street provided rental housing to working families in Lock Haven.

Description: This 2 1/2 story brick-veneered front-gabled duplex is clad in brick veneer and has a painted brick or stone foundation with basement windows. The four-bay facade is symmetrical, and exterior elements include one-over-one double hung sash windows inside flat arched openings, wide eaves with decorative wooden brackets, fish scale shingles in the front gable end, composition roofing material, and a full front porch with a shed roof and decorative wooden brackets. The porch supports and balustrade are of non-historic ironwork. An interior brick chimney is located off-center at the ridge line. The few alterations which have been made to the house were mainly a result of damages caused by the 1972 flood. A one-story wooden shed porch at the rear, or west, facade with decorative wooden brackets is partially infilled with a block addition and sheathed with asbestos siding. The floorplan is one room wide and three rooms deep on the first story and the same on the second story with a hallway on the interior wall. The staircase divides the second and third rooms on both stories.

The interiors of each unit of the duplex are identical and opposite to one another. Both exhibit identical single-leaf horizontally panelled doors with historic hardware, plain wooden door and window surrounds, original staircases with squared balustrades and newel posts, plaster walls, and wide wooden baseboards with grooved edging. In general, the interior condition of 121 Mill Street is more original than that of 123 Mill Street which also exhibits paneling on most walls. Decorative linoleum covers the second-

story floors of 121 Mill Street and is present in some areas of the second-story at 123 Mill Street.

History:

The property known as 121-123 Mill Street is located on the site of two former sawmills of the nineteenth century which were removed by 1896. About that time, the D.L. Miller Ice House was constructed on the west side of Mill Street, occupying the present sites of 121-23 and 117 Mill Street. By 1914, the ice house was demolished and a frame house with a brick veneer and slate or tin roof was located there. It appears that the building at 121-123 Mill Street was constructed between 1906 and 1914. In 1914, the house contained a three-story front section and a two-story rear section. A one-story frame porch spanned the front facade, and no rear additions were present.

This house has a history as a residential rental property. The ownership of the property is not conclusive, but the tenant record is clear. The house functioned as two rental residences (121 and 123) as early as 1915. Tenants represented a cross-section of Lock Haven's working class. A sampling of occupations from 1915 to 1948 include miner, tailor, meat cutter, clerk, electrician and chemist. One tenant in 1941 was employed by the Piper Aircraft Company, an important Lock Haven industry in the mid-twentieth century. Although a few renters held unusually long tenancies at 123 Mill Street (averaging about 20 years), most tenancies tended to average less than four years.

Documentation of the building at 121-123 Mill Street was undertaken during October and November of 1991. The documentation serves as a mitigative measure for the treatment of this historic property, as it would be affected by a proposed Lock Haven flood protection project under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District. The duplex at 121-123 Mill Street is slated for removal from the property to accommodate the construction of a flood wall as a part of the flood protection project. The duplex will be marketed for sale in an attempt to have it moved. If the duplex cannot be sold, it will be marketed for architectural salvage. The last recourse for the duplex is demolition.

Sources:

Clinton County Legal Records. Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

Dashiell, David A. *121-123 Mill Street.* Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form 035-LH-029. Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1/1985

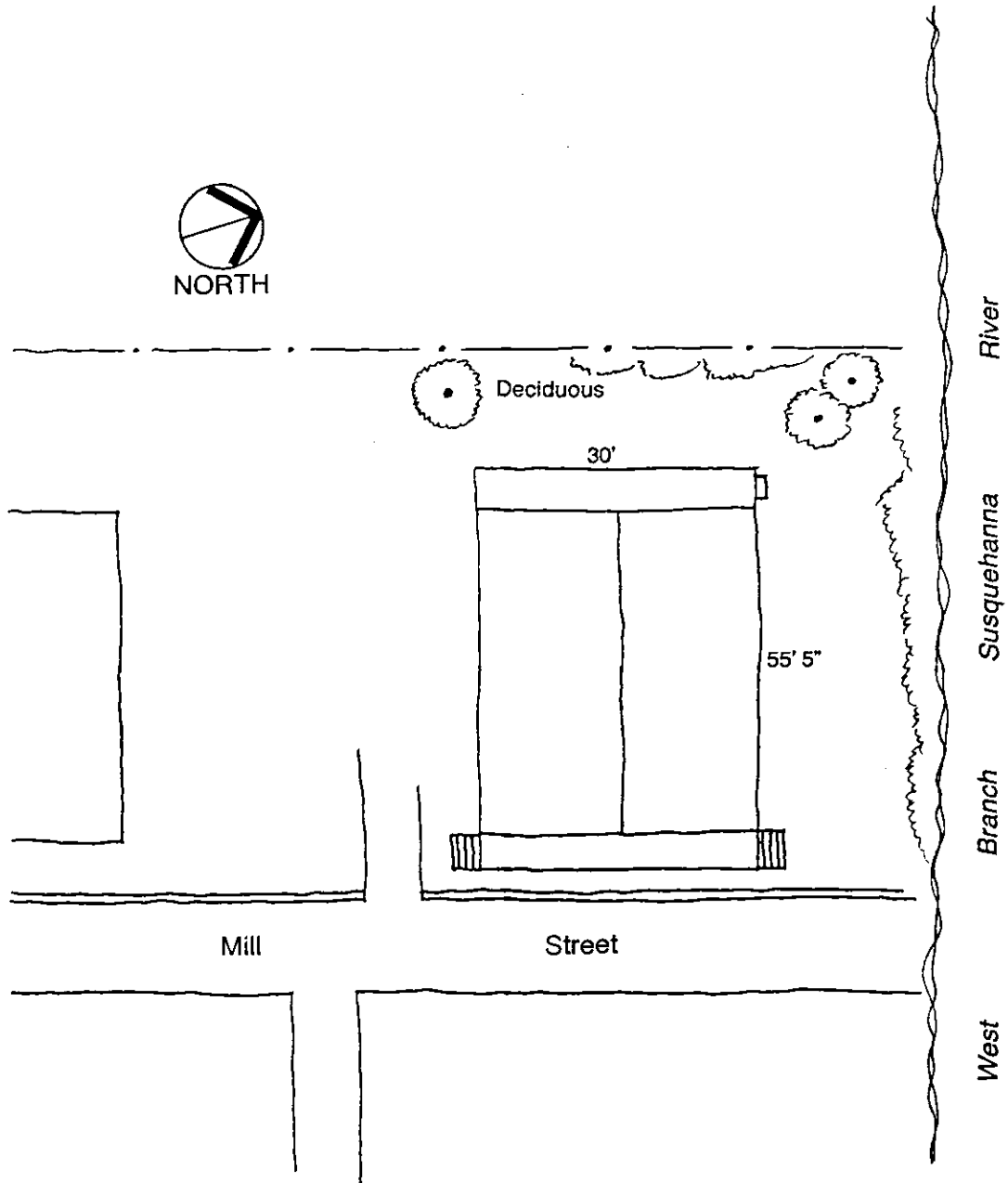
Hannegan, Susan. *General History and Description of Clinton County, Preliminary Research Report, Clinton County Historic Sites Survey, 1985-86.* Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1986.

Lock Haven City Directories - 1915 through 1949. Located at the Ross Library, Lock Haven.

Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Map of Lock Haven*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1885, 1891, 1901, 1906, 1914, 1925, 1954.

Vento, Frank J., Philip T. Fitzgibbons, Scott D. Heberling, and James Herbstritt. *Phase I Inventory Investigations of Potentially Significant Prehistoric and Historic Period Cultural Resources for the Lock Haven Flood Protection Project, Clinton County, Pennsylvania*. Prepared for the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by Vendel Enviro-Industrial Consultants, 1989.

Historians: Martin B. Abbot and Susan C. Nabors
Kise Franks & Straw
Fall 1991



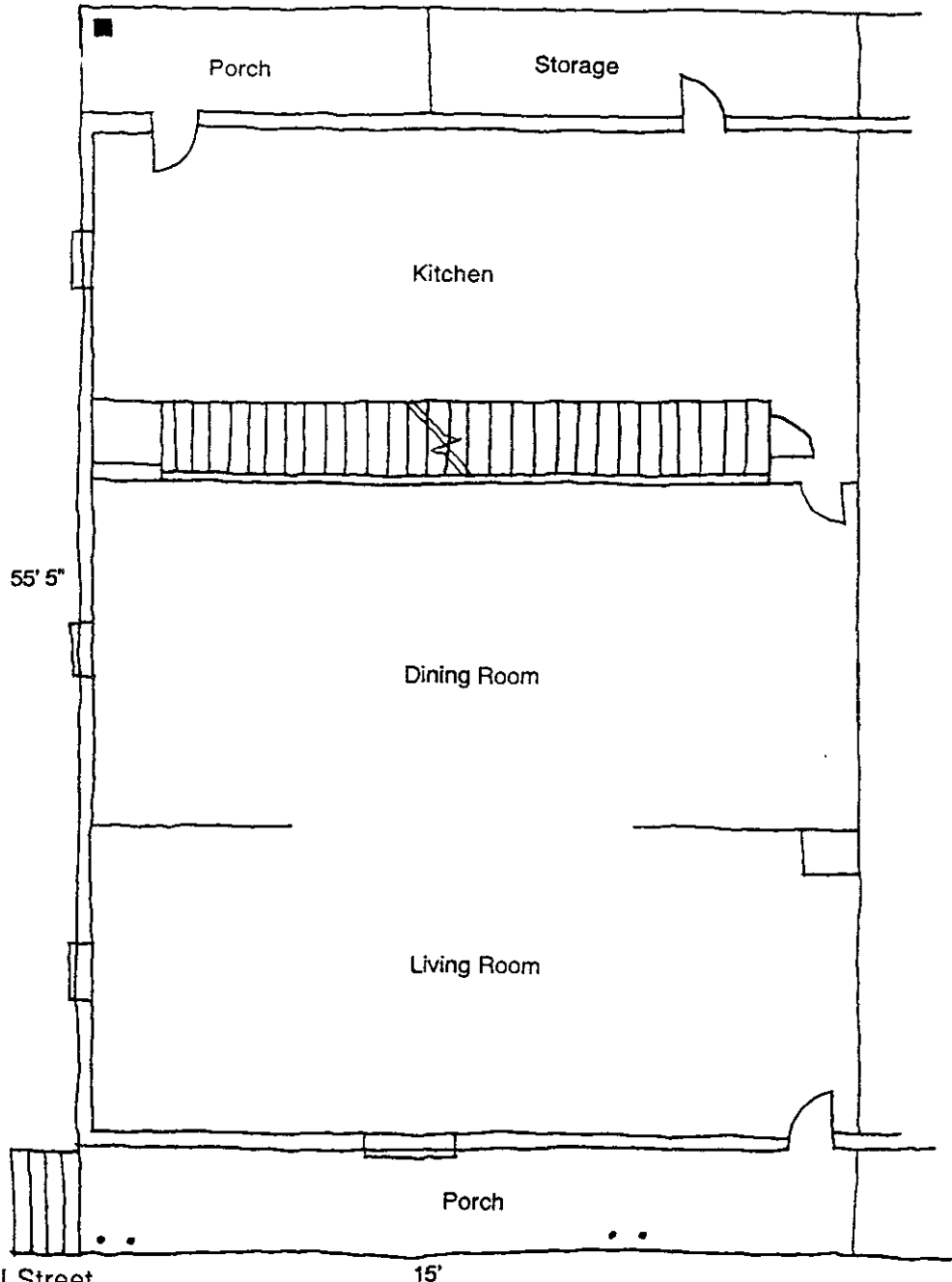
Site Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



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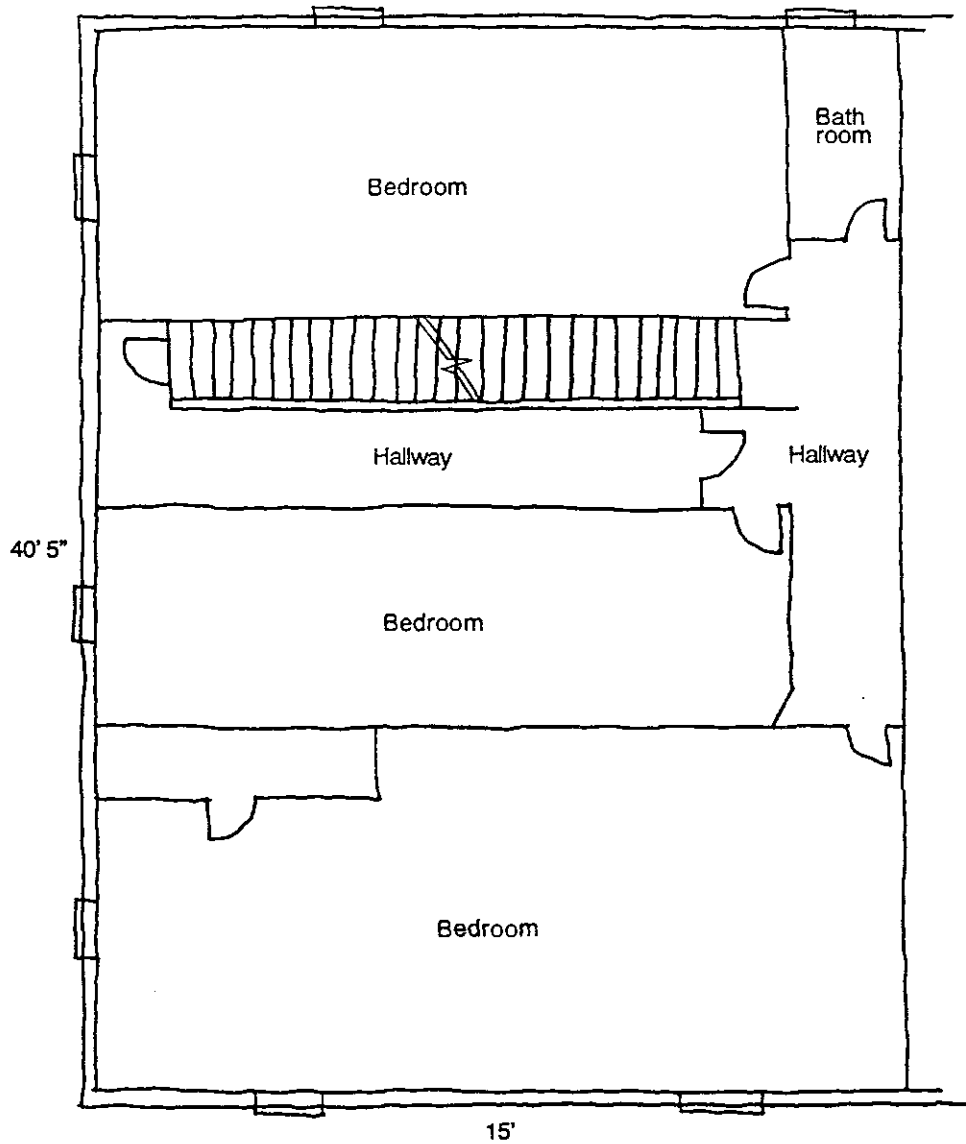


121 Mill Street
First Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



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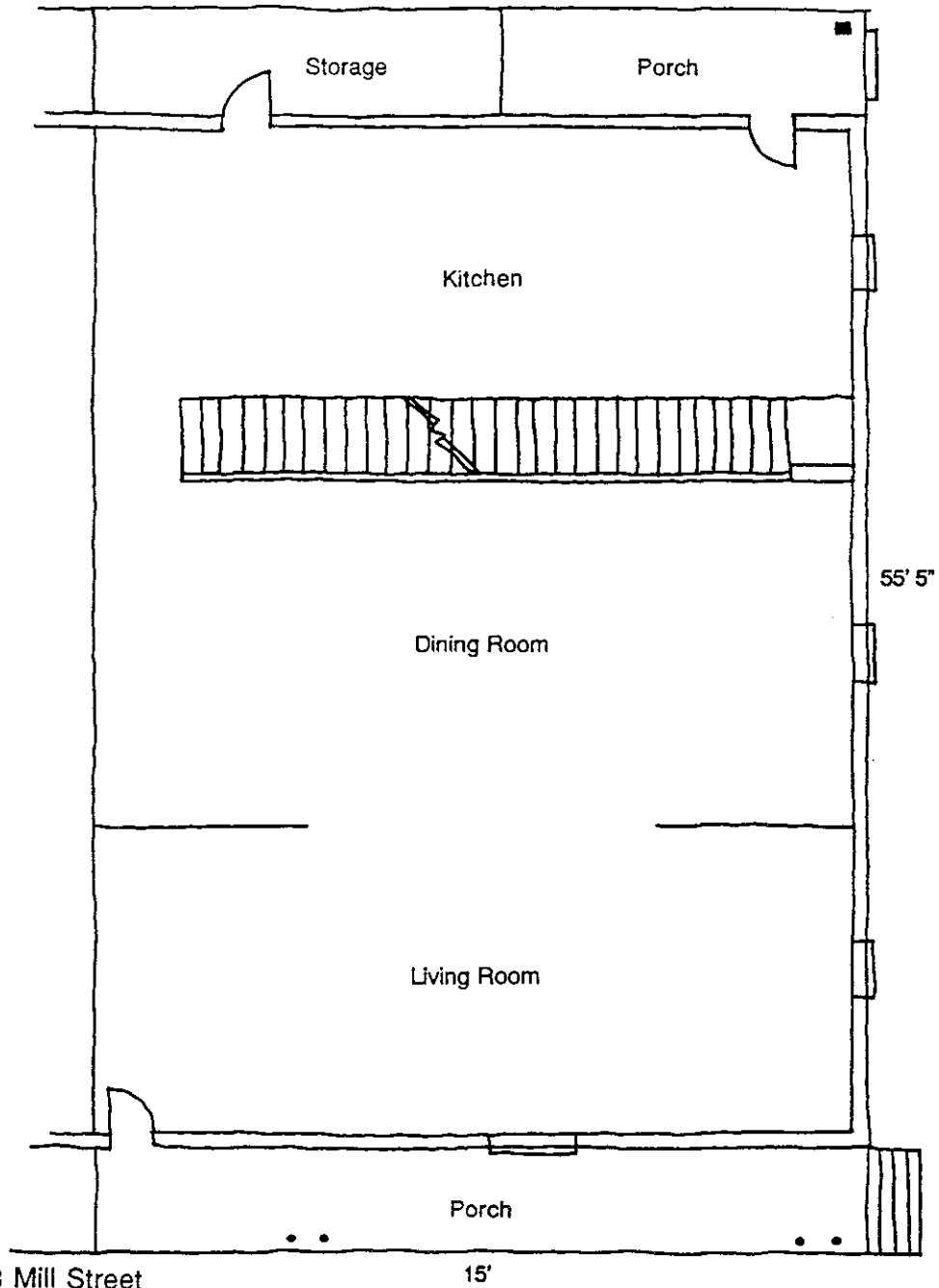
121 Mill Street
Second Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



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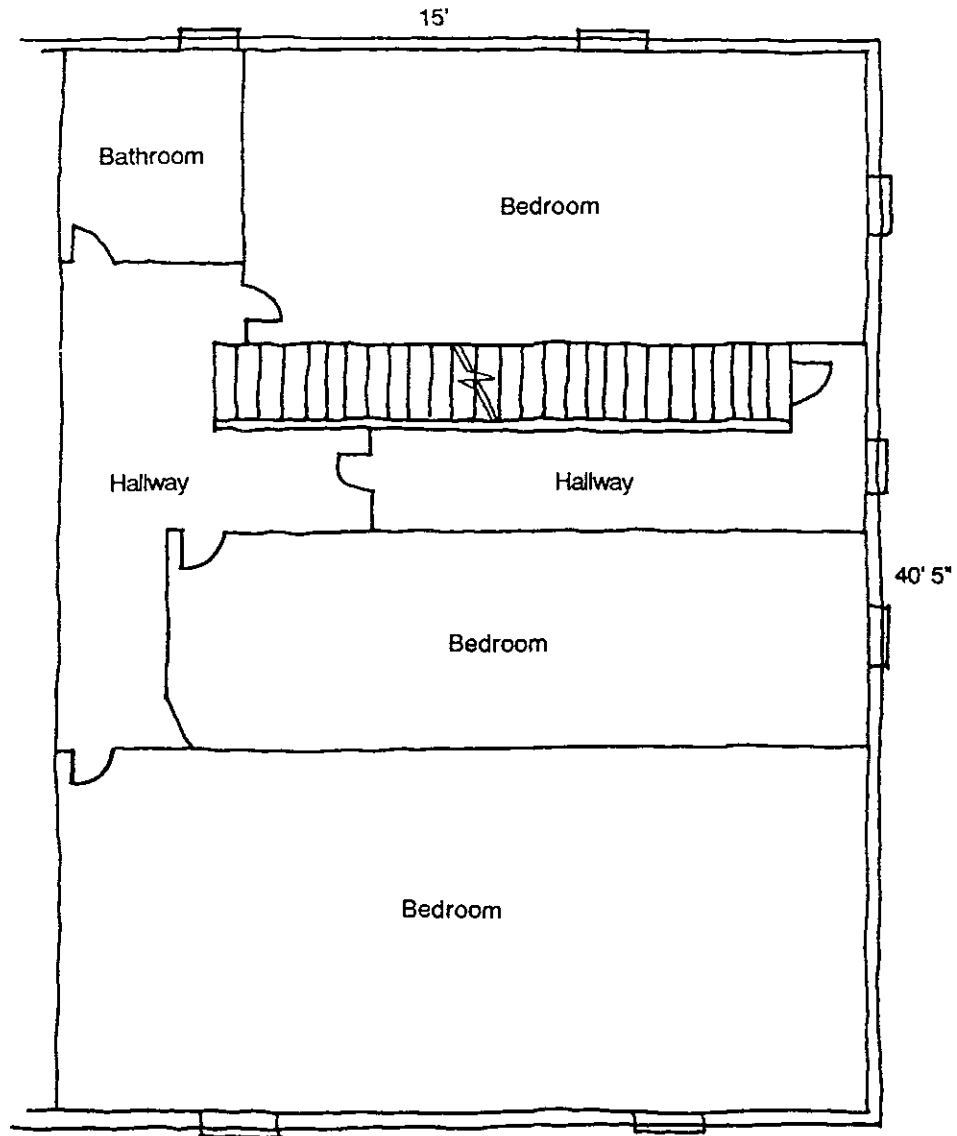


123 Mill Street
First Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



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123 Mill Street
Second Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer